

Successful Shevchenko Museum Reopening!



Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Director of the Shevchenko Museum, spoke about the past, present and future of the institution.

The building intrigued the neighbourhood and passers-by for months, especially after the facade was in place. The mystery was finally revealed to all on Sunday, October 20, when the Resident Executive Committee of the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation hosted a wine-and-cheese reception for the official opening of the Shevchenko Museum in its new location at 1604 Bloor Street West in Toronto.

In fact, the building is far more than a museum.

On the ground floor is a studio, designed to accommodate art and artists, which has already attracted some commu-

nity attention for its intended purpose.

On this level, too, is a well-appointed kitchen which can service events in the entire building.

The street level is divided into three main areas: the foyer, a flexible area which can be used in many ways; the heritage gallery, which houses exhibits related to early Ukr-

ainian immigration to Canada; and the Shevchenko gallery, with images in various media devoted to Taras Shevchenko, the Bard of Ukraine.

The top level, in addition to two offices, hosts a library with an extensive collection (said to be better than the collection held by the Library of Congress) of Shevchenkiana, as well as literature related to early Ukrainian immigration to Canada — a potential gold mine for researchers.

Also on this level is another gallery, designed to hold temporary exhibitions as well as serving as a public event space. The opening was the first event, but the Resident Executive Committee is planning a program to make the space a centre of community life.

In the works is a series called “Shevchenko Talks”, loosely modelled on such events as the Massey Lectures, with presentations on the ninth of every month

(Taras Shevchenko was born on March 9). There are already inquiries from people and institutions interested in using the space.

The building is well designed for community use, being fully accessible, including a baby-changing station.

This is the location of which the Shevchenko Museum is so proud, and which it happily displayed at the opening.

As visitors entered, they
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Flautist Vlad Tomilin circulated through the building before the opening ceremonies.



Bhutila Karpoche, Member of Provincial Parliament for Parkdale–High Park, is the first person of Tibetan heritage to be elected to public office in North America. In her greeting, she said that we are lucky to have such an institution.



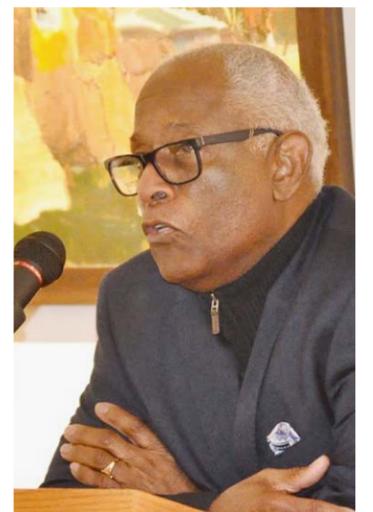
Outside and in, the building at 1604 Bloor Street West in Toronto has been transformed. Above is today’s display in the Shevchenko Gallery; below, the main hall of the AUUC Cultural Centre.



The neighbours were talking for months, wondering about the building shown above, with the big portrait on its facade — what was it all about? Perhaps some remembered the same building a year earlier, shown below. Many visited on October 20, while others have come by since.



Yulia Shylenko, Manager of Fonds and Collections at the National Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv, came with kind words and many gifts for the Shevchenko Museum.



Grant Morris, a planner who has been of valuable assistance to the Shevchenko Museum, presented a congratulatory message.

— Photo: Christopher McCormack

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(Continued from Page 6.) were given beautifully designed booklets specially prepared for the occasion. They were encouraged to sign the guest book, and had an opportunity to buy a gift from a table laden with options.

Among the visitors were members from across the country of the Board of Directors of the Museum, as well as several members of the National Committee of the AUUC.

While they explored the building, they were entertained by flautist Vlad Tomilin. In the event space, they could partake of a selection of cheeses, fruits and crackers, as well as a glass of wine.

Even before the formalities got under way, it was clear that this would be a standing-room-only affair, with attendees spilling over into the corridor and other spaces.

When Larissa Stavroff called the gathering to order, there were over a hundred people in the building — and they kept coming, even toward the scheduled closing time.

After Ms. Stavroff, first to speak was Shevchenko Museum Director Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, who spoke about the past, present and future of the institution.

Ms Pogoryelova was followed by a written greeting from Arif Virani, MP, (who was no doubt campaigning, with the hard-fought federal election happening the next day) and then by Bhutla Karpoche, MPP, who presented a commemorative certificate.

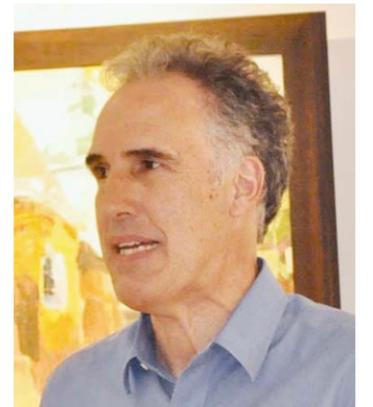
After a greeting was read from the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, Yulia Shylenko took the floor. The Manager of Fonds and Collections at the National Shevchenko Museum in Kyiv, extended greetings to the Shevchenko Museum before presenting many and varied gifts (many of them from Family Values).

Other speakers included planner Grant Morris, who has been a generous supporter of

the Museum, architect Chris McCormack, who (with his wife Wendy Robertson) is going above and beyond in helping to promote the success of the Museum, and Oleh Lesiuk, President of the Ukrainian Association of Visual Artists of Canada.

The afternoon included a reading in Ukrainian by Natalka Mochoruk of Taras Shevchenko's poem "It Makes No Difference to Me" followed by a reading by Wilfred Szczesny of Clarence A. Manning's translation into English of the same poem.

Ending the afternoon's formalities was an appearance by a bandura capella, with solo flautist Anna Kubovych.



Architect Christopher McCormack expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work on the project, and pressed the need for community involvement.



Oleh Lesiuk, President of the Ukrainian Association of Visual Artists of Canada, spoke to the importance of the institution.

Photos at left, top to bottom: A bandura capella, with solo flautist Anna Kubovych, entertained to end the formalities.

The antechamber is a flexible space, accommodating (among other possibilities) a gift shop staffed by volunteers.

The heritage gallery features a variety of exhibits, including implements, costumes, and other items related to early Ukrainian immigration to Canada, as well as a selection graphic art.

The library, a treasure trove for researchers, is said to hold a collection more extensive than that at the Library of Congress in the USA.



Natalka Mochoruk read Taras Shevchenko's poem "It Makes No Difference to Me" in Ukrainian, after which Wilfred Szczesny read Clarence A. Manning's English translation of the same poem.

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— Photo: Jerry Dobrowolsky



It was standing room only in the event space and temporary gallery for the reopening of the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto on October 20 in its new location at 1604 Bloor Street West, formerly the AUUC Cultural Centre. Everyone was impressed by the quality of the building; those who remembered it from a year earlier were also astounded by the physical transformation of the edifice. A report, with photographs, appears on page 6 in this issue of the *Ukrainian Canadian Herald*.